

March 16, 2009

Thomas P. Gaffey, Co-Chair  
Andrew M. Fleishmann, Co-Chair  
Education Committee  
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Regarding Raised Bill # 6666, Section 7**

An act requiring School Districts to utilize Board Certified Behavior Analysts when and individual education plan includes applied behavior analytic services as part of a student's special education

To Whom It May Concern:

I work with children with autism in public schools across the state. I fully support Raised Bill # 6666, Section 7.

It is essential to ensure that children with autism receive a free and appropriate education implemented by qualified personnel; every other professional discipline that works with children with special needs is required to have a valid license or certification. This bill will require that for children determined to receive Applied Behavior Analytic services through the IEP process, delivery of services will be provided by a *certified* behavior analyst. Looking at other professions (e.g., hairdressers, forklift drivers) that require individuals be certified in order to hold the position, it is only logical that individuals working with some of our most impaired children should be required to hold a certification as well.

To clarify, this bill does not state that all children with autism be mandated a BCBA. This bill states that if a child is determined to receive ABA services, the person implementing such services should be a *certified* behavior analyst. Clarification of this summary is important for all members of the general assembly in order to fully understand the scope and intent of this bill.

Sincerely,

Jill E.  
Castellani

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